

**Amendments to the Specification**

At page 1, please insert the following new paragraph below the title:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is the U.S. national phase of the PCT/FR2003/003870 filed December 22, 2003, which claims the benefit of French Application No. 03 00164 filed January 8, 2003, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

At page 1, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following heading:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

At page 4, between lines 32 and 34, insert the following heading:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the description hereinbelow of nonlimiting exemplary embodiments, with references to the appended drawings, in which:~~

- figure 1 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary audio coder according to the invention;
- figure 2 represents a binary output sequence of N bits in a an embodiment of the invention; and
- figure 3 is a schematic diagram of an audio decoder according to the invention.

At page 11, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following heading:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

At page 11, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following heading:

**DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**